

OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT

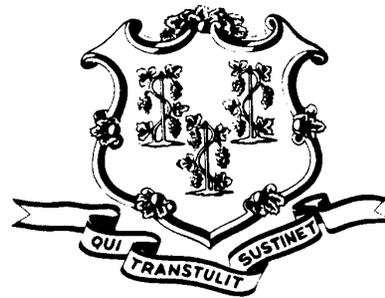
Criminal Justice

Policy & Planning Division



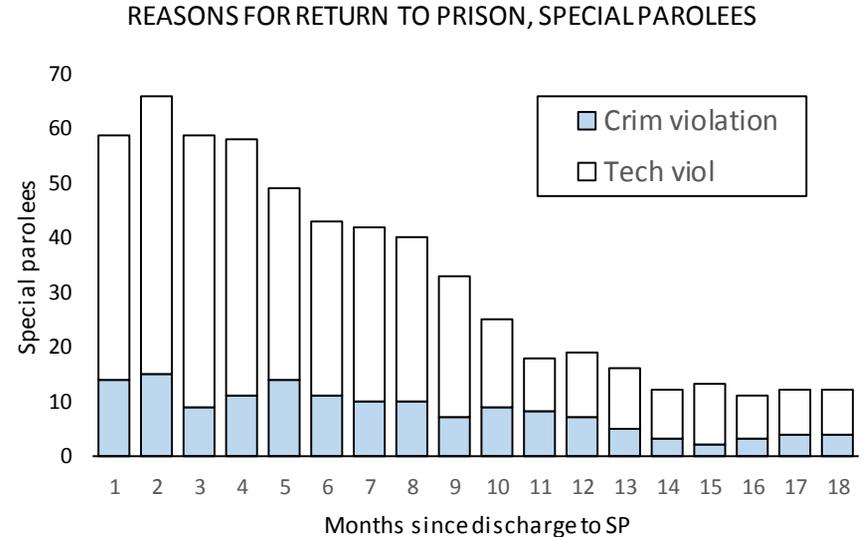
Special Parole Update

OPM – Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division



Oct 2015

The Monthly Indicator Report – October 2015



- **An inmate at a DOC facility requested information on recidivism outcomes for special parole and probation. His letter suggested that inmates disagree over the merits of each type of supervision.**
- **Although we normally do not perform analysis based inmate queries, this seemed to be a worthwhile question. OPM pulled DOC data for 1,060 offenders who were discharged to special parole in 2012 and 2013.**
- **Subsequent analysis revealed that:**
 - **Almost 50% of offenders were returned to prison within 12 months, and**
 - **Technical violations were reported to account for 75% of these returns.**

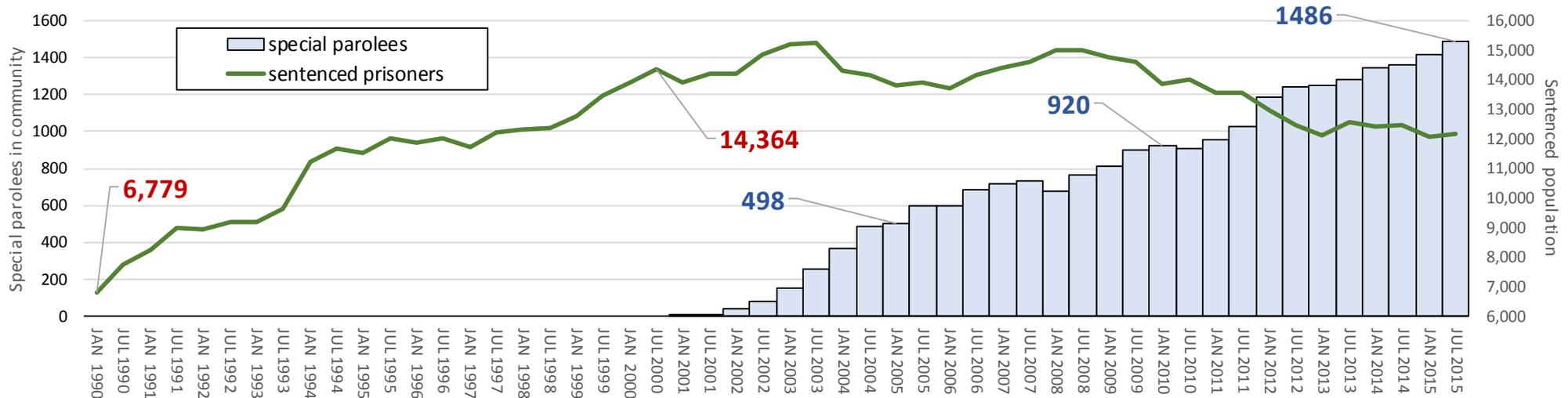
The Monthly Indicator Report – the upshot



These findings raised a number of questions, including:

- **What should our expectation be regarding special parole?**
 - **Is a 50% return rate too high, too low or just right?**
- **Are special parolees a riskier population than other offenders?**
 - **If not, why are so many people being remanded?**
- **How do these remand rates compare with remand rates for other types of supervision?**
- **Are we making use of graduated sanctions before remanding special parolees?**
- **What kinds of offenders are being sentenced to special parole?**
- **Can these seemingly high remand rates be demonstrated to result in better public safety?**

The long view



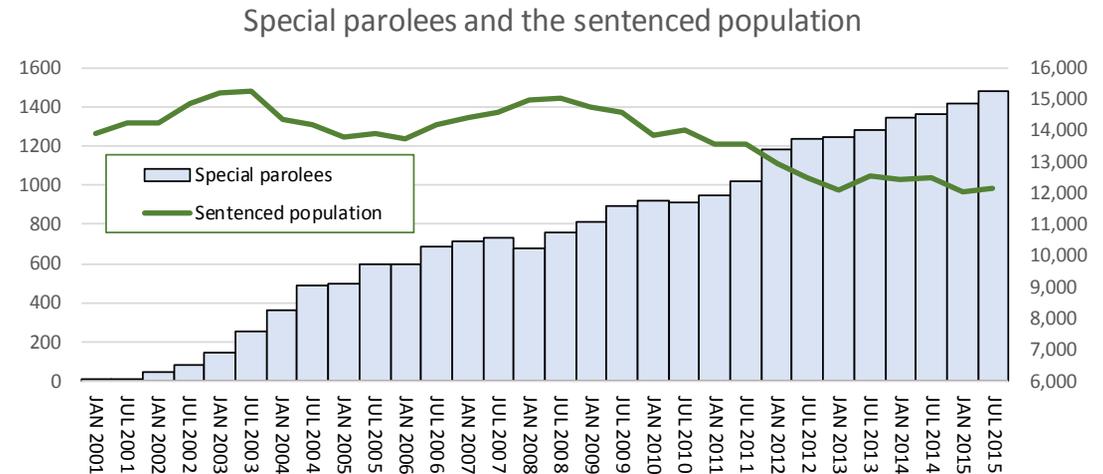
Special parole was designed as...

Michael Mullin, BOPP Chair, described special parole as “a sentencing option which ensures intense supervision of convicted felons after they’re released to the community and allows the imposition of parole stipulations on the released inmates to ensure their successful incremental re-entry into society, or if they violate their stipulations, speedy re-incarceration before they commit another crime.” (CJPAC presentation by Joseph Hagen, March 29, 2012)

- **Public Act 98-234 effective October 1, 1998**
- **CGS Section 54-125e. Special parole**
- **The first offender was discharged to special parole in 2000**

September 2015

The Connecticut Supreme Court confirmed that the legislative intent of special parole was “to operate as a sentencing option in cases where the judge wanted additional supervision of a defendant after completion of his prison sentence” *Ibid., Hagen*

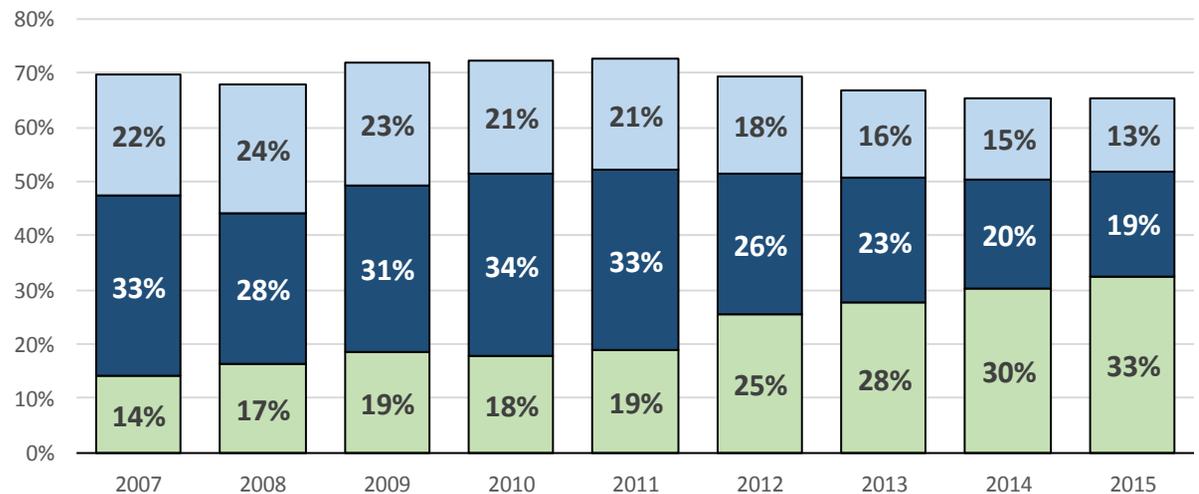
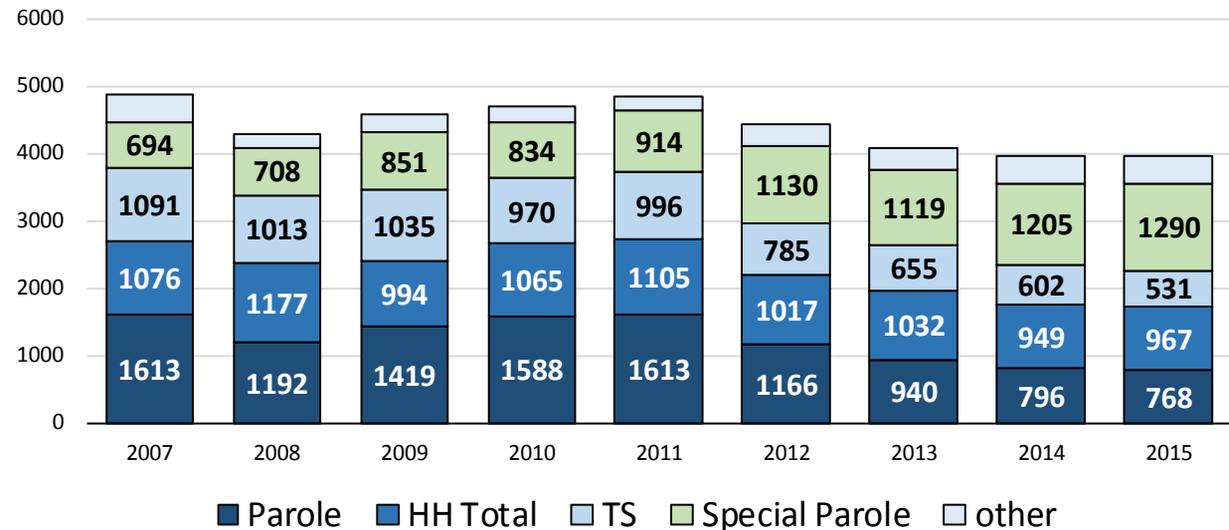


... the judge wanted additional supervision of a defendant ...

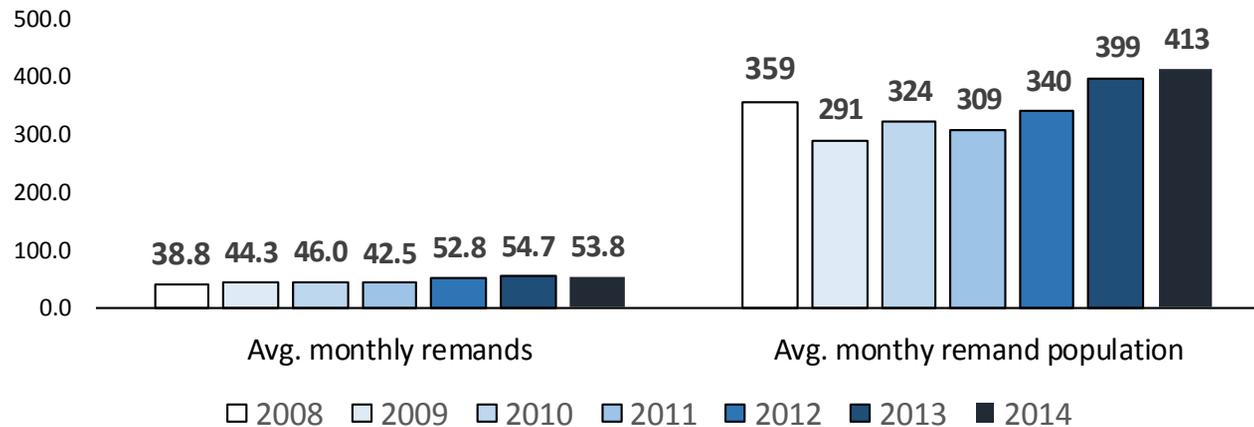
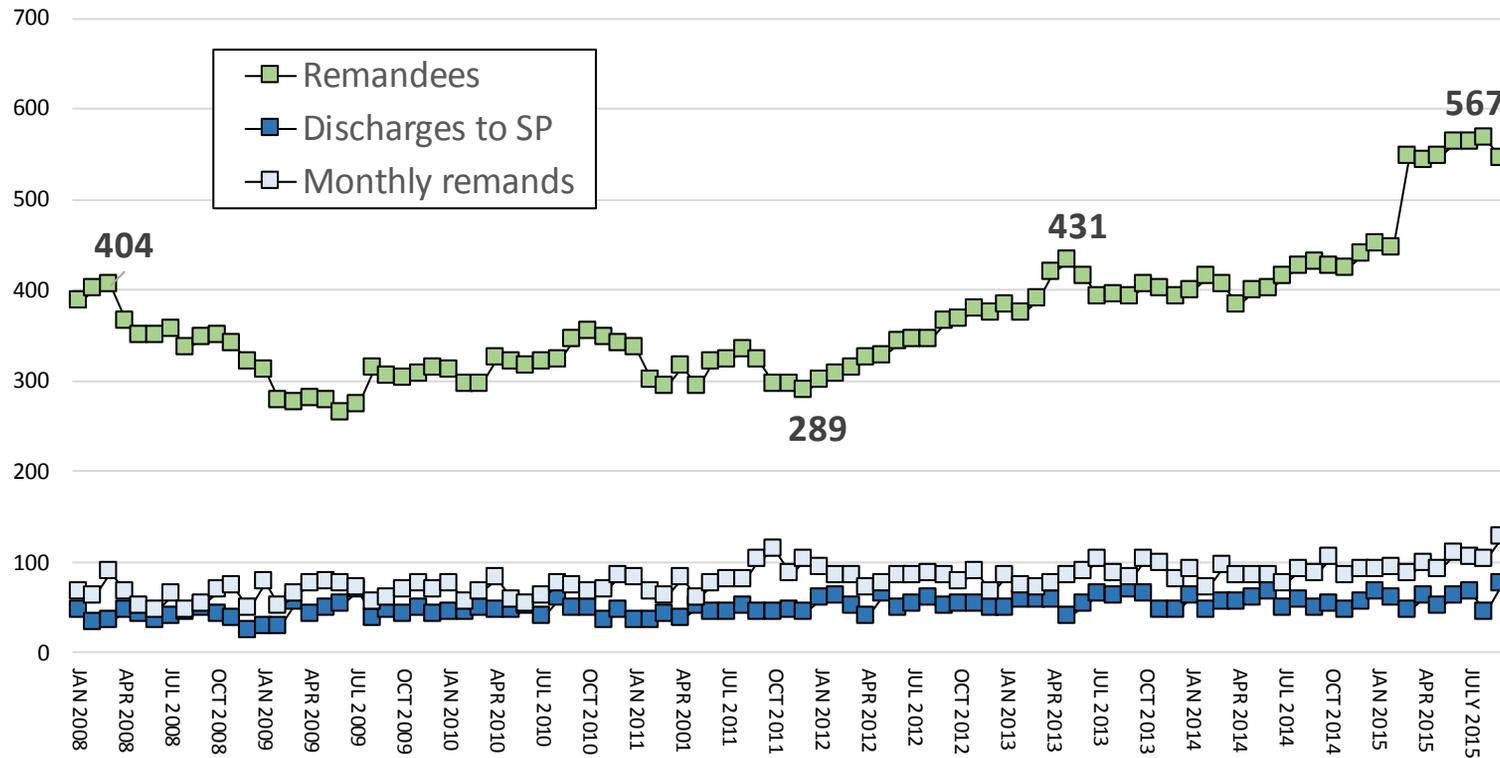
The upshot...the use of special parole in sentencing has continued to grow, seemingly unabated, despite dropping crime rates and a 19% drop in the sentenced population since January 2008.

The impact on DOC community supervision

- In recent years, the character of DOC community supervision has changed dramatically because of special parole.
- In 2007, special parolees made up 14% of the supervised population. Today, they make up 33% of the supervised caseload.
- In 2007, 2% of halfway house beds were occupied by special parolees. Today that number is 20%.



The implications of this change



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- With longer periods of supervision, the field and facility resources are impacted.
- Confusion and misunderstanding is common with respect to the rules governing special parole.
- The remanded population is growing rapidly. In 2015, the special parole remand population has grown to about 550.



The players

Judges and prosecutors **Sentencing**

Parole officers **Supervision**

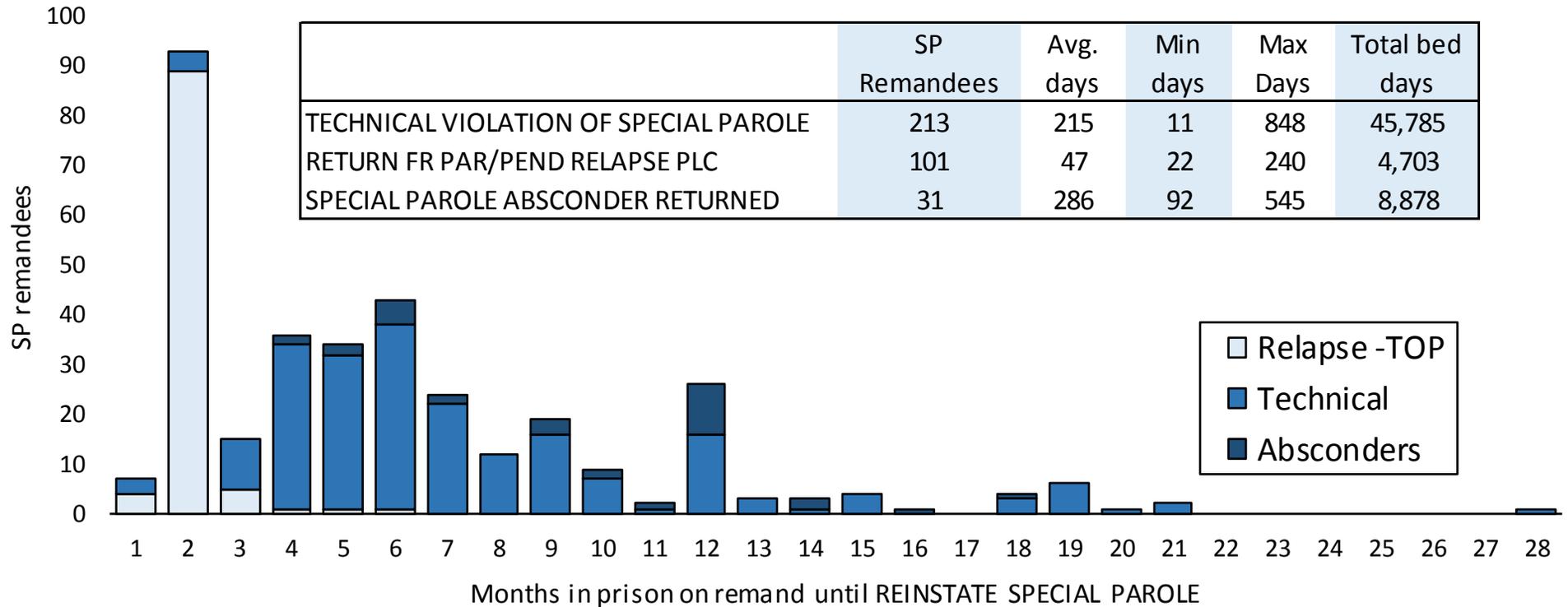
- **Stipulations**
- **Conditions**
- **Supervision**
- **Remand authority**

Parole managers **Oversight**

**Board of Pardons
and Paroles** **Jurisdiction**

- **Stipulations**
- **Conditions**
- **Revocation and re-instatement**

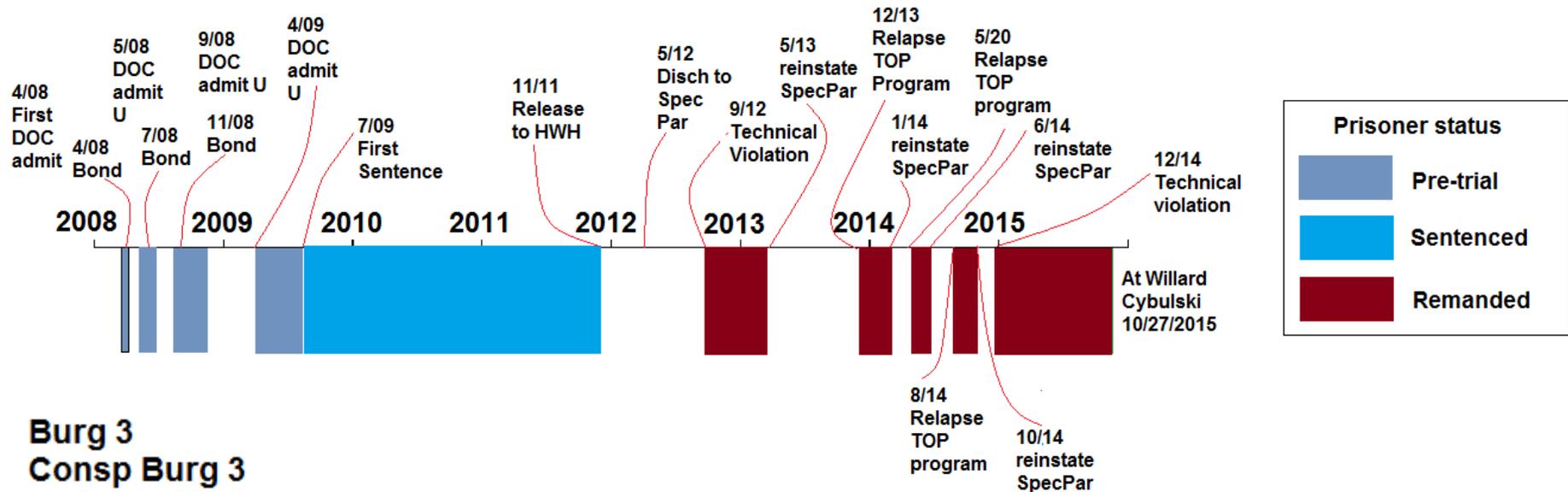
Time on remand, first technical violation



Of 1,060 offenders discharged to special parole, 552 have been returned to prison for technical violations. They were returned 920 times.

This analysis was done using offender movement files.

A special parolee with 5 remands



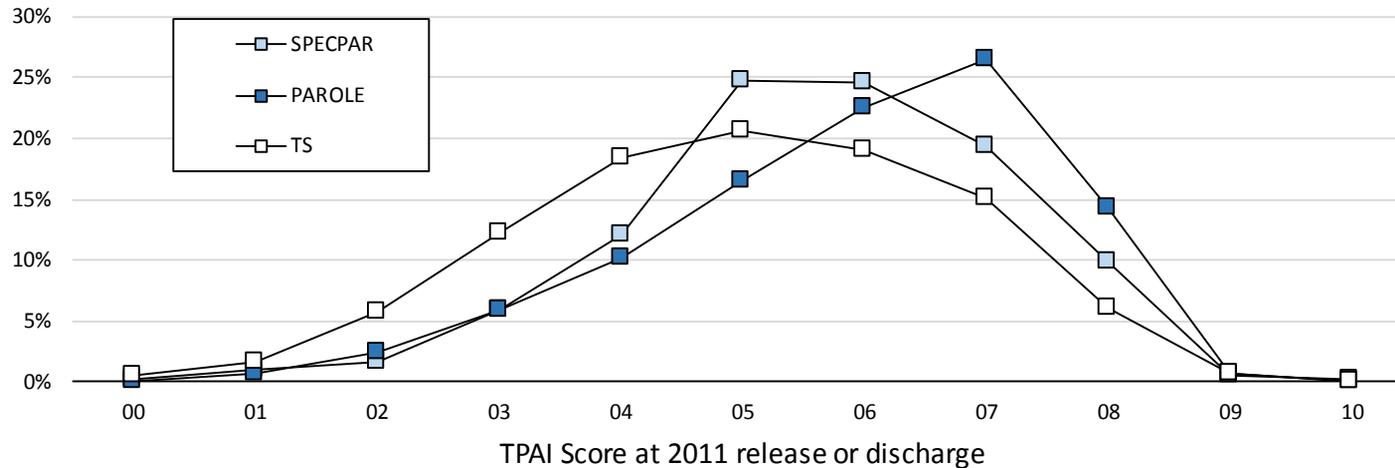
Burg 3
Consp Burg 3
Larc 1
Consp Larc 1
Evading Responsibility
FTA1
42 months plus 5 years SP

MH Score: 2
Alcohol Drug score: 3
TPAI: 7
Sex Treatment Score: 1
First admit 18

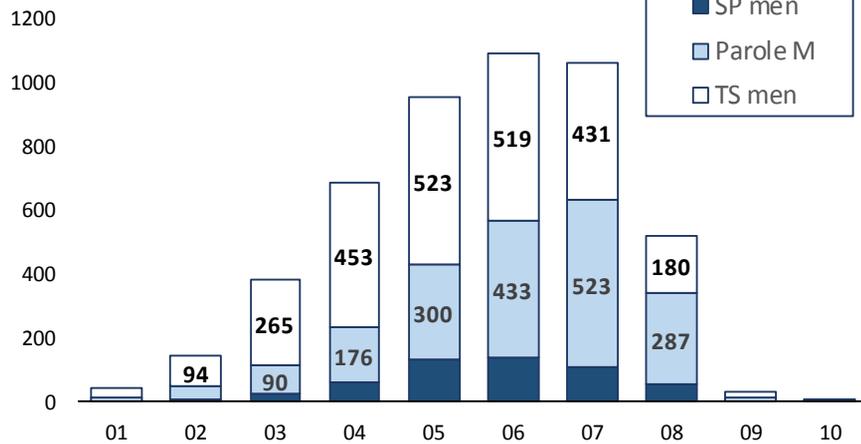
1. "...hospitalized several times as a child for severe behavior problems"
2. Offender was convicted for Sex Assault 1 at the age of 14 in 2003.
3. He was remanded 12/3/2014 after testing positive for opiates...."You previously attended the TOP program three times for your illegal addiction needs. Subsequently, you were remanded to custody."

Risk – offenders released to community in 2011

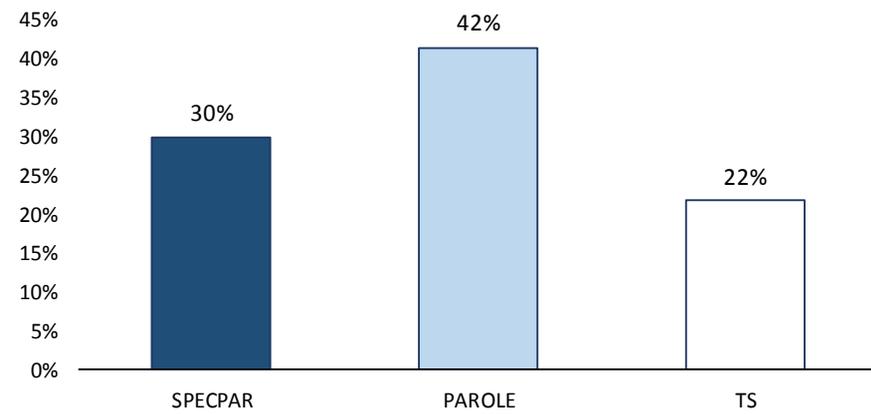
TPAI - by release/discharge type, 2011 cohort



Under supervision, 2011



Percent with TPAI of 7 or higher, 2011

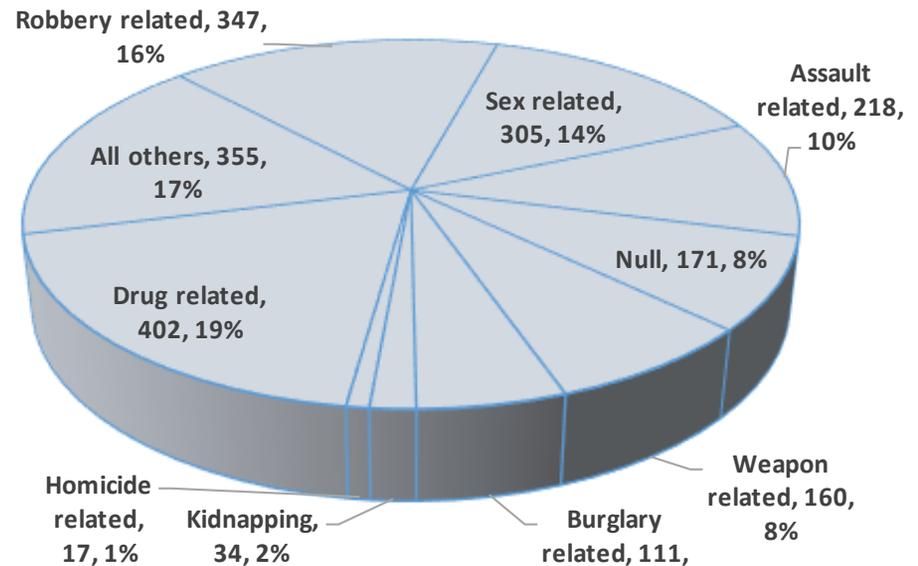


Felony offense on controlling docket

For special parolees in prison or on remand on October 28, 2015

20 most common felony offenses, special parolees, 10/28/2015

		Freq.
1	ROBBERY, FIRST DEGREE BF	230
2	SALE OF HALLUCIGEN/NARCOTIC SUBSTNC F	223
3	Null	171
4	SEXUAL ASSAULT, 1ST DEGREE F	169
5	ASSAULT, FIRST DEGREE BF	140
6	ROBBERY, SECOND DEGREE CF	98
7	POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS F	85
8	INJURY OR RISK OF INJURY TO MINOR F	83
9	CRIM POSS FIREARM/ELEC DF WEAP DF	70
10	LARCENY, SECOND DEGREE CF	58
11	FAILURE TO APPEAR, 1ST DEGREE DF	57
12	LARCENY, FIRST DEGREE BF	53
13	BURGLARY, THIRD DEGREE DF	50
14	ASSAULT ON POLICE OR FIRE OFFICER CF	49
15	CR POSS PIS/REVOLVER DF	45
16	BURGLARY, SECOND DEGREE CF	44
17	ESCAPE, 1ST DEGREE CF	44
18	SALE OF NARC/AMPHET BY NON-DEPEND F	41
19	SEX ASSAULT, SECOND DEGREE F	39
20	SALE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE F	35
	All others	336
	Special parolees on October 28,2015	2120



Further questions

- **Given the changes we've seen in CJ since 1998, is it time to reconsider our goals for special parole?**
- **Does special parole still work under current circumstances.**
- **What type of offenders is most appropriate for special parole?**
- **What should our expectation be regarding special parole?**
 - **Is a 50% return rate too high, too low or just right?**
- **Are special parolees a riskier population than other offenders?**
 - **If not, why are so many people being remanded?**
- **How do these remand rates compare with remand rates for other types of supervision?**
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